

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - DAILY UPDATE

Monday, July 6, 2020

This is a summary of today's events based on various media briefings by federal, state, county and city officials.

Cases – Reported as of Summary Time

Location	Confirmed/ Reported Cases	Deaths	Total Tests
United States	3,023,856	132,798	38,101,923
California	266,756 9.97% increase over 7/2	6,373	4,793,353
Los Angeles County	116,570 8.27% increase over 7/2	3,534	1,199,000
LA County Hospitalizations	1,921 1.48% increase over 7/2		
Claremont	132	1	
Current Case Leaders by State			
New York	422,728	32,264	4,288,131
California	266,756	6,373	4,793,353
Texas	206,763	2,692	2,431,861
Florida	206,447	3,778	2,235,937

International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- The [Student and Exchange Visitor Program \(SEVP\)](#) announced modifications Monday to temporary exemptions for nonimmigrant students taking online classes due to the pandemic for the fall 2020 semester. [Student visas](#) will not be issued to people enrolled in schools or programs that are fully online for the fall semester, and students in such programs will not be permitted to enter the country, [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a statement](#). It said that students who are currently in the country and enrolled in such programs "must depart the country or take other measures, such as transferring to a school with in-person instruction to remain in lawful status."
- The W.H.O. has resisted mounting evidence that viral particles floating indoors are infectious, some scientists say. The agency maintains the research is still inconclusive.
- In an open letter to the W.H.O., 239 scientists in 32 countries have outlined the evidence showing that smaller particles can infect people and are calling for the agency to revise its recommendations. The researchers plan to publish their letter in a scientific journal next week.
- Increases in cases resulting from close contact at in bars and restaurants, offices, markets and casinos, giving rise to frightening clusters of infection that increasingly confirm what many scientists have been saying for months: The virus lingers in the air indoors, infecting those nearby.

- Last week following the World Health Organization's two-day online meeting of 1,300 scientists from around the world, the agency's chief scientist, Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, said the consensus for now was that the infection fatality rate is about 0.6 percent — which means that the risk of death is less than 1 percent.
 - Although she did not note this, 0.6 percent of the world's population is 47 million people, and 0.6 percent of the American population is 2 million people. The virus remains a major threat.
 - At present, countries have very different case fatality rates, or C.F.R.'s, which measure deaths among patients known to have had Covid-19. In most cases, that number is highest in countries that have had the virus the longest. Using Friday's data, the United States was very close to that mark. It has had 2,811,447 cases and 129,403 deaths, about 4.6 percent.
 - The infection fatality rate and the case fatality rate — can differ quite a bit by country.
 - So far, in most countries, about 20 percent of all confirmed Covid-19 patients become ill enough to need supplemental oxygen or even more advanced hospital care, said Dr. Janet Diaz, head of clinical care for the W.H.O.'s emergencies program.
- The University of Washington announced on Sunday that at least 112 fraternity house residents north of its Seattle campus have tested positive for COVID-19.
 - The number of confirmed cases has risen steadily since the outbreak was first announced on June 30. At that point, 38 students living in 10 fraternity houses had tested positive. By July 3, at least 117 residents of 15 fraternity houses had self-reported positive test results.
 - "While we were pleased to see most of the houses had previously taken measures to reduce resident capacity by up to 50% this summer in response to COVID-19, those measures are not sufficient without vigilant, daily preventive measures, such as wearing face coverings, physical distancing and hand hygiene," Dr. Geoffrey Gottlieb, chair of the UW Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases, said in a university statement.
 - The University of Washington plans to reopen at the end of September with a hybrid model of in-person and remote instruction, as well as increased health and safety protocols.
- Florida surged past 200,000 total COVID-19 cases Sunday, exactly one month after most of the state entered Phase 2 of its reopening plan.
- It reached the milestone less than two weeks after hitting the 100,000-case mark on June 22 and only five days after reaching 150,000 cases on Tuesday.
- Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, warned today that the country was still "knee-deep in the first wave" of the pandemic, saying that the more than 50,000 new cases a day recorded several times in the past week were "a serious situation that we have to address immediately."
- "I would say this would not be considered a wave," Dr. Fauci said. "It was a surge, or a resurgence of infections superimposed upon a baseline that really never got down to where we wanted to go."
- Over the first five days of July, the United States reported its three largest daily case totals. Fourteen states recorded single-day highs. In all, more than 250,000 new cases were announced nationwide.
- Researchers around the world are working on the next generation of coronavirus tests that give answers in less than an hour, without onerous equipment or highly trained personnel.
- The latest so-called point-of-care tests, which could be done in a doctor's office or even at home, would be an upgrade from today's status quo: uncomfortable swabs that can take several days to produce results.

- The handful of point-of-care devices now on the market are [frequently inaccurate](#). Up-and-coming tests could yield more reliable results, researchers say, potentially leading to on-the-spot testing nationwide. But most of the new contenders are still in early stages and won't be available in clinics for months.

State of California/Governor Gavin Newsom/State Coverage

- There are now **23 counties** on the state's coronavirus monitoring list — six counties have joined the list since Governor Newsom's last update, while two were removed. SoCal's Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties remain on the list.
- Testing has increased to more than 100,000 a day, but the overall positivity rate of those tested has also increased by more than a third, reaching an average of 7.2 percent positive tests over the past week, according to state data. Hospitalizations are up by 50 percent in California over the past two weeks, and in some southern counties, hospitals are at capacity.
- There were **127,000 tests** conducted Saturday, a record for the state. California is averaging **104,000 tests per day** over the past week. The positivity rate in the past 14 days is up to **6.8%** — two weeks ago, that number was 4.9%, marking a **39% increase**. The state's positivity rate over the past seven days is **7.2%**.
- The Fourth of July marked the 15th consecutive day that California tallied record hospitalization numbers of confirmed coronavirus patients. On Saturday, the state recorded 5,669 patients with confirmed coronavirus infections in California hospitals—an increase of 62% over the previous two weeks.
- San Bernardino County website, officials said the county reported 753 new cases on June 30, “the highest number of cases reported on a single day.” On the Fourth of July, the county tallied 1,024 new cases.
- In Orange County, COVID-19 hospitalizations are up 72% in the last two weeks. On Saturday, there were 624 people hospitalized in Orange County with confirmed coronavirus infections; on the previous Saturday, 492 were hospitalized; and on the Saturday before that 363 were in the hospital.
- Riverside County has reported a 63% rise in confirmed COVID-19 cases over the past three weeks, according to the Los Angeles Times coronavirus tracker: 485 new cases on July 4; 340 on June 27; 297 on June 20.

L.A. Department of Public Health/County of Los Angeles

- 48 new deaths and 1,584 new cases reported today.
- Single day new high total with 3,187 new cases on Friday, July 3.
- There are 1,921 people currently hospitalized, 28% of these people are confirmed cases in the ICU and 18% are confirmed cases on ventilators. This is the largest number of people hospitalized in many weeks.
- Testing results are available for nearly 1.2 million individuals, with 9% of people testing positive. The 7-day average of the daily positivity rate is 9.5%.
- Significant increase in younger people being diagnosed – 50% of new cases are within 18-40 years old.
- More younger people are being hospitalized with older people being hospitalized less frequently.
- 43% of LA County residents have a job that require them to be in close contact with others.

- The Understanding America Study that is administered by USC's Dornsife Center reports that 55.2% of LA County residents had close contact (within 6 feet) with people who do not live with them in the last 7 days. This is an increase from the 30.5% reported from April 8-14.
- Dr. Ferrer emphasized avoiding the 3C's – Crowded place, Confined spaces and Close contact with others not in your household.
- In certain conditions, such as being indoors (especially fans or AC), we are seeing an increase in transmissions. Definitely being outdoors vs indoors is preferable.
- Hospitalizations of patients with confirmed coronavirus infections in Los Angeles County have jumped nearly 50% in the last three weeks. On Saturday, there were 1,921 patients in L.A. County hospitals with confirmed coronavirus infections; seven days earlier, there were 1,710; the week before that, there were 1,453; and the week prior to that, there were 1,285.

Higher Education

- Harvard University announced that only up to 40 percent of its undergraduates would be allowed on campus at a time during the next academic year, but that tuition and fees would remain the same.
- The [university said](#) that all first-year students would be invited to campus for the fall semester, but would be sent home in the spring to allow seniors to return before they graduate.
- The university will offer a summer term next year of two tuition-free courses for all students who had to study away from campus for the full academic year.
- More than 850 members of the Georgia Tech faculty have signed a [letter](#) opposing the school's [reopening plans for the fall](#), under which wearing face masks on campus would not be mandatory but only "strongly encouraged." The Montana University System is also [facing pushback](#) from the faculty over its mask policy.